

If your boots don't do their stuff when it comes to keeping your feet warm, your dogs will soon be whimpering in the cold. Here are some ways to help your boots and keep your feet warm:

Patch Holes Quick

A hole lets water get at the boot's insulation. Wet insulation can't stop cold and soon you have cold feet. Patch holes as soon as you find them with coldweather boot maintenance kit, NSN 8465-00-753-6335. Put the adhesive on both the boot and patch.



That's only a temporary fix for the field, though. As soon as you get back from the field, turn the boots in for repair or replacement.

An open air pressure relief valve lets in almost as much moisture as a puncture. Keep the valve closed unless you're flying in an aircraft. Then be sure to close the valve as soon as you land.



Think Dry

Putting on damp socks is about as bad as going barefoot. When you go to the field, take extra socks and change them often.

Never place your boots next to a heater at the end of the day. True, extreme heat will dry out the boots, but it'll also leave them stuck to the floor.

When you're in the field, try hanging up your boots high from the center of the tent. Heat rises and dries your boots without melting them.



How to Clean

Use only a mild detergent and water to clean your boots. Wash the insides at least once a month. Take the laces out and clean between the tongue and eyelets. Dirt or grit there wears a hole in the boots eventually.

For a really stubborn stain, use a spray-on general purpose detergent, NSN 7930-00-357-7386. What you don't want to use on your boots is paint or shoe polish. They break down the rubber coating and soon you'll need a new pair.



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